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WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1899-TWELVE PAGES.

THEIR REMAINS HERE

The Maine's Dead Brought From Newport News.

ALL TO BE BURIED AT ARLINGTON

Privilege of Private Interment Pure Food Interests Aroused by the Wil- Assistant District Attorney Says Will Be Withdrawn.

THE CEREMONIES TOMORROW

The remains of 150 of the dead of the battle ship Maine, blown up in Havana harber, February 15, 1898, arrived at Rosslyn. Va., at 7:20 this morning, from Newport News. They were escorted by a guard of honor composed of twelve men from the Texas, including among them Jerry Shea, a member of the original Maine crew, and who narrowly escaped death. The party was under the command of Lieut. Benham. Chaplain Chidwick was also on the train.

The train which brought the remains consisted of four cars and the engine. The cars were Nos. 135, 127 and 150 of the Adams Express Company, which contained the bodies. Next to the engine was pas-senger coach No. 378. This contained the detail of marines which came from Newport News.

As soon as the cars reached the freight vards they were placed on the new siding. south of the other tracks. The marines on Loard disembarked without loss of time, and went to Georgetown, where they had something to eat. After this they went to Arlington national cemetery, where they will most likely remain until tomorrow. when the funeral exercises will be held. The special train, which came over the Chesapeake and Ohio tracks, left New-

port News at 10 o'clock last evening, and the trip through Virginia was made without incident. Of the three baggage cars, each contained the remains of fifty of the gallant dead.

When the train arrived at Rosslyn the night watchman was the only one on hand. The freight agent, Mr. G. H. Gingell, was immediately communicated with, and inside of ten minutes he was at the depot and received the manifest. There were just 150 coffins in the three cars, and when everything was in readiness the removal was begun. The news of the arrival of the train soon spread through the little village, and a gathering of limited proportions was present to witness the removal.

Arlington cemetery is about three miles from the freight station, and the work of transporting the coffins to the cemetery was awarled by contract, the work being secured by Mr. Rezin W. Darby.

There was present about sixty or seventy teams, including the government wagons. The contractor used only the government vehicles and sent the others back to Washington, Littlefield & Alvord being the owners.

Each wagon was loaded with two coffus. immediately communicated with, and in-

ers. Each wagon was loaded with two coffins.

As soon as this load was completed an American flag was spread over the boxes and the trip to Arlington commenced. The flags were furnished by the War Department. Each wagon made about four trips, and on each trip the same formalities were observed.

therved. The remains of each man were incased a a small wooden box, painted a dark color. To look at the boxes one would hardly have thought that it contained all hat remained of a man. The boxes were slied several deep in each car, in order to get the entire number within the three baggage coaches. By 11 o'clock the last box had been removed from the cars, and the routine life at the freight yards was resumed.

Upon the arrival of the boxes at Arlington shelfer tents were erected, and beneath the protection of the canvas the bodies of the heroes were laid. These tents will remain in position until the services tomorrow, and as fast as the interments are made the tents will be removed. While the remains lie at the cemetery, and until the burial tomorrow, a guard of marines will be kept at the place.

Captain Sigsbee and Chaplain Chidwick called at the Navy Department this morning to consult with Assistant Secretary Allen respecting the ceremonles to take place in connection with the reinterment of the bodies.

Captain Sigsbee made the trip from Nor-Captain Sigsbee made the trip from Norfolk accompanied by Lieut. F. C. Bowers
of the Texas, formerly of the Maine. Captain Sigsbee will have charge of the ceremonies at the cemetery and Lieutenant
Benham command of blue-jackets. Chaplain
Chidwick will conduct religious services. A
guard of marines and the full Marine Band
will participate.

The exercises will be as simple as possible, and the idea of having a parade has
been abandoned. The President and mem-

eers are expected to attend the funeral The Navy Department today ordered a sufficient number of wreath made of galax leaves to enable one to b placed on each casket.

No Private Interments.

The Navy Department has been reluctantly obliged to withdraw the privilege it had intended to extend to the relatives and friends of the deceased sailors to allow them to bury the remains at their homes. This has been found to be impracticable owing to the conditions under which the exhumation of the bodies has been conducted. When the remains were interred in Havana two years ago the ceremony was conducted with great haste because the ion of the remains absolutely re-such action should be taken in that hot climate. As the remains were landed on the Machina wharf in Havana harbor they were identified as far as possible by Chaplain Chidwick and then taken to Colon As the remains were landed cometery, where they were interred, six bodies in one grave. There was no question bodies in one grave. There was no question as to the identity of the corpses in the majority of cases, and Chaplain Chidwick majority of cases, and Chaplain Chidwick did his best to keep track of the remains in his records. But, upon the exhumation, it was found that it was not possible to separate the remains with absolute certainty. In one case, that of Apprentice Holzer, who was buried in a single grave, there was no doubt of his identity.

But in the cases of the others it was felt to be desirable that the government itself should inter the remains, thus making sure that all of the men who lost their lives on the Maine should be buried together in a national cemetery.

Statistics of the Maine's Disaster. Following statistics of Maine disaster are furnished by Capt. Sigsbee: Officers killed, officers' bodies recovered and identified 1; officers missing, 1; crew killed at exploa, 250; crew injured and died later at Havana, 8; total crew lost, 258; dead of crew recovered and actually or supposedly identified, 73; dead of crew recovered but not identified, 118; total crew buried, 191; not identified, 118; total crew buried, 191; crew missing, 67; officer buried at Allegheny cemetery, Pittsburg, Pa. 1; crew buried at Colon cemetery, Havana, 166; crew buried at Key West, 25; officers attached, 26; officers on board at explosion, 22; officers on shore at explosion, 4; crew attached, 329; crew on board at explosion, 528; crew at Key West at explosion, 1; total officers and crew attached, 355; total officers and crew at Havana, 354; total officers and crew on board at explosion, 350; officers killed, 2; officers on board saved, 20; officers on shore saved, 4; total officers saved, 24; crew killed at explosion, 250; crew died later of wounds at Havana, 8; total crew lost, 258; total officers and crew

lost, 260; crew saved, wholly unhurt, 16; crew saved, injured and lived, 54; total crew saved and lived, 70; officers saved, 24; total officers and crew saved and lived, 94.

Ninety-Seven Unidentified. Of the 150 bodies which are to be buried at Arlington tomorrow 63 were identified at the time of their interment in Colon cemetery. Ninety-seven of the bodies to be in-terred tomorrow vere never identified.

kins-Butler Application.

Emphatic Telegrams Received From Representatives of the Dairymen of the Country.

Pure food interests the country over are being aroused to action to protest against the granting of the pardon prayed for by Joseph Wilkins and Howard Butler, who are now serving sentences in Moyamensing prison. Philadelphia, a description of whose offense and endeavor to escape just punish ment from it was published in yesterday's Evening Star.

Attorney General Griggs has not reached a conclusion in the matter yet, and, owing to the importance of the real question at issue, it will probably be some time before a decision is announced.

Emphatic Expressions.

Telegrams are already being received from representative dairymen in relation to the attempt to secure a pardon, and the fellowing are copies of two sent to Mr. James F. Oyster of this city, one of the vice presidents of the National Dairy Union. The first is from Charles Y. Knigh of Chicago, secretary of the N. D. W. He

"The pardoning of Joseph Wilkins would be considered an unfriendly act by the dairymen of the United States, who have for years suffered from such frauds as he and his class have perpetrated. It is in-excusable and would certainly be resented excusable and would certainly be resented and made political capital of against the responsible parties by the millions of farmers who are now moving on Congress for more stringent laws to punish such offenders. In the name of the dairymen of the United States I protest against an act fraught with such disastrous consequences to the cause of honesty in commerce In pure foods."

The other, from John Newman, president of the board of trade of Elgin, Ill., the most important butter market in the world, was as follows:

"To pardon Wilkins would be against the best interests of pure butter and in favor of the sale of counterfeits and a hard blow to the dairy interests of the country." The originals of these telegrams are in the possession of the Secretary of Agriculture.

JOHN D. SARGENT INSANE.

He Was Accused of Murder of R. R. Hamilton.

EVANSTON, Wyo., December 27.—John D. Sargent of New York, who was suspected of the murder of Robert Ray Hamliton in 1891, is incurably insane. Sargent and Hamilton established a ranch on Snake river, and lived there for some time. Later, Hamilton was drowned and Sargent was accused of the crime. Sargent is now under indictment for the murder of his wife, and is also charged with assaulting his

four-year-old daughter.

He fled to New York after the latter crime was said to have been committed, but returned last summer to stand trial. The confinement in jall caused him to become a physical wreek. come a physical wreck and to lose his mind, consequently he has been released.

LETTER CARRIERS LEAVE K. OF L.

Chicago Assembly Oppose Resolu-tions Condemning the Administration CHICAGO, December 27.—By the unani-mous action of local assembly No. 1460, Knights of Labor, the ranks of that organization were reduced nearly 500 last night. At a meeting the members of the assembly, which is composed of letter carriers, decided to withdraw from the national organization, in accordance with a ruling made by the district master workman, E. J. Lindholm, on December 15 when he suspended the local body because it attempted to repudiate the action of the national assembly in Boston recently in adopting resolutions against the administration of President McKiniey. Last night the resolutions were repudiated, and then the members voted unanimously to withdraw from the national body.

draw from the national body.

Not only did they agree to withdraw, but they also decided to surrender their charter, thus dissolving the local organization. Charles D. Duffy, who presided at the meeting, is president of the Chicago Association of Letter Carriers and vice president of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

TWO DEATHS IN A STREET FIGHT. Deposit, Ala., the Scene of a Murder-

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., December 27 .- In street fight at Deposit today two men were killed and a third probably fatally wounded James Harden's throat was cut from ear to ear by his nephew. Jesse Harden. Th former is dead. John C. Harden, a brother of the dead man, was seriously cut by Jesse Harden, and as the fight was drawing to a close Mac Russell discharged load of buckshot into the abdomen of Jes

HARVARD'S BOAT HOUSE BURNS.

Building Was Just Approaching Com-pletion-Loss is \$37,000.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., December 27.-Harvard's new boat house on Charles River Parkway, which was almost completed, was burned today, and the launch Frank Thomson, a gift of the late president of the Pennsylvania railroad to Harvard, was badly damaged. The loss is estimated at \$17,000, of which \$27,000 on the building falls on the contractor.

The boat house was to have been ready

or occupancy next March, and was one of the best buildings of its class. It was 139 feet long, eighty-five feet wide and two stories high, with basement. The Harvard Boat Club of New York subscribed \$25,000 toward construction of the building. The building was to have been named for Mar-shall Newell, the Harvard oarsman and foot ball player, who was killed at Spring-field, Mass., two years ago.

Conductor Furlong Killed.

CUMBERLAND, Md., December 27-Jas Furiong, aged 32 years, a Baltimore and Ohio freight conductor, was crushed atnost beyond recognition by an engine backing over him in Cumberland yards this morning. His foot caught in a frog as he attempted to get out of the way. Death was

Jurors in Molineux Case Complain to Recorder Goff.

PROTESTS AGAINST PARDON JUDGE CANNOT RELIEVE THEM

the Precaution is Necessary.

THE WITNESSES TODAY

NEW YORK, December 27 .- Some of the jurors in the case of Roland B. Molineux, who is on trial for the alleged murder of Mrs. Kate J. Adams, have complained to Recorder Goff about being under the constant and almost painful surveillance of detectives. They claim that ever since the selection of the jury a detective has been ssigned to each member of the jury, and this detective has shadowed his man with annoying persistence. The complaining jurors say that they are not only dogged, out that their business places are invaded and even the privacy of home life is disturbed by the detectives. One of the jurors said that he and his wife were even followed by a detective to a Christmas tree festival on Christmas night. His every movement about the tree, the juror said, and in connection with the giving of presents to the little ones, was followed by the detective. If the juror stopped to talk with a friend, the detective was there at his elbow affecting a faraway look, but bent on catching every word. To have his every word and his every act scrutinized and jotted down, the juror said, was intolerable.

le. The complaining jurors declared that the detectives who did the shadowing made a report of their observations every morning to Assistant District Attorney Osborne.

Foreman Martin's Complaint. Foreman Martin was one of the complain ng jurors. He said that he and his family were much disturbed by the detectives of

the assistant district attorney's employ. One of the jurors objected to the de tective assigned to him, peering over his shoulder and sidling up to him when he was talking business with some of his employes. The complaints of the jurors covered the whole range of their business and domestic economy.

domestic economy.

Assistant District Attorney McIntyre said today that fifteen detectives were chosen for this purpose, a detective being assigned to each one of the jurors. He said that it was not unusual to have detectives shadow jurors during the trial of an important muder case. It was essentiated to the said that it was not unusual to have defectives shadow jurors during the trial of an important muder case. an important murder case. It was essen-tial for justice and public good that this It was said that Recorder Goff told the

It was said that Recorder Goff told the complaining jurors that he could do nothing for them, and that they went away dissatisfied.

The proceedings in the trial were resumed today with Daniel T. Ames of San Francisco, the handwriting expert, on the witness stand.

This is the forty-fourth day of the trial, and the record for long murder trials in

and the record for long murder trials in New York county has been broken by one day without any of the essential points in the case having been proved. It yet re-mains for the prosecution to prove that a murder was committed or that a package of poison was sent through the mail. Listening for nearly a month to the technical explanations of the handwriting experts has had a plainly wearisome effect upon the jury as a body.

Mr. Osborne Not in Court Assistant District Attorney James W. Osorne was not in court when proceedings began. The recorder waited a moment for him and then refused to delay longer.

Assistant District Attorney O'Connor up the examination by requesting the witness to choose some specific point of the admitted and disputed writings in evidence that had not been touched upon by those preceding him in the witness chair and state what bearing it had on the writings.

Expert Ames took for explanation the lower loop in the letters "Y" and "G," as they are to be found throughout the admitey are to be found throughout the admitted and disputed writings. Passing from the question of the technical formation of these question of the technical formation of these letters, the expert taiked on about what he terned a "phenomenaly long e." This, he said, was not an accidental happening, as he had found that invariably the letter "E," wherever used and whether capital or small, was of phenomenal length as compared with the accommanding length as was of phenomenal length as com-with the accompanying letters or of bnormal size.
This statement appeared at first to be

intradictory to that of preceding experts which is little more than a do n the paper. Mr. Ames, however, cam-hat point later and said that the final

Characteristics of Dollar Mark

The witness passed rapidly over severa oints, which he said were only minor ones, and then he illustrated by crayo three styles of forming the dollar mark as it is done through the exhibits. As he did so, he said that in his judgment they rep resented three distinct types of the writer's personality.
At this point the witness turned to Mr

mention, but I am aware of a growing impatience."
"Go right on, Mr. Ames," said Mr. Osborne.
The witness next said it was preposterous The witness next said it was preposterous for any one to say that the handwriting of the poison package address was of a simulated nature. If, as had been insinuated, that were so, the person who attempted to imitate the writing would try to write as nearly like the original as possible, and there was absolutely no pictorial resemblance between the poison package address and the writings of the defendant. That the poison package address was simulated, he said, was impossible from any scientific standpoint.

At this juncture Mr. Osborne asked the witness if he had ever seen such a splendid collection of writings from which to draw a conclusion as was found in this case. He was answered in the negative. Mr. Ames then stated in answer to questions that not being aware when he first began his study of the writings in the case that the Cornish signature in those letters was not genuine, he came to the conclusion that Cornish was the man who had written the poison package address. He had not at that time seen any of the defendant's writing.

"Then," asked Mr. Osborne, "it is your opinion that the hand that wrote the Cornish letters also wrote the poison package address?" At this juncture Mr. Osborne asked the

"Oh, yes, I came to that conclusion long

Steamer Sinks a Schooner. LONDON, December 27.—The British steamer Starlight, which arrived here on December 25, from Philadelphia, while bound in December 24, collided with and sunk the schooner Flying Foam. No lives were lost.

Roland Reed Has Cancer. NEW YORK, December 27.-Roland Reed the comedian, who underwent an operation yesterday for the removal of a cancerou growth in the stomach, is resting com-

Serious Complications With Great Britain Not Apprehended.

Vigorous Steps to Obtain Redress Will Be Taken if Justified-Mr. Alexander P. Morse's Opinion.

The Secretary of State has so far received

o report from United States Consul Hollis at Pretoria concerning the alleged seizure by British officials of vessels laden with American four, consigned to South Africa. It is not at all likely that any serious complications will arise between this gov ernment and Great Britain over the inci lent, and no doubt is entertained that Great Britain will make ample reparation for the seizure of the merchandise in case it is shown that she has violated international rights. If it turns out that neutral goods in neutral bottoms destined for a neutral port have been seized by either party to the war, as would be the case with party to the war, as would be the case with American flour consigned to the Portu-guese port of Lorenzo Marquez, there is no doubt that the State Department will take vigorous steps for securing proper redress. It is the belief of the officials, however, that no serious attempt will be made by any European power at this time to classify flour as contraband of war.

Views of Alexander P. Morse. Mr. Alexander P. Morse, an authority on international law, has made a statemeint on the legal aspects of the alleged seizures,

in which he says: "The British claim to seize American breadstuffs affoat in Delagoa bay on the

in which he says:

"The British claim to seize American breadstuffs afloat in Delagoa bay on the ground that they were intended for transshipment to the territory of the Bocrs raises the question as to its legality according to prize law and involves again the censideration of guilty intent in relation to continuity of voyage in the sense of prize courts. The theory of continuity of voyage is not a new invention, it having originated with Sir William Scott, who applied it adversely to certain American interests in the last century. It was, indeed, a revival of the famous rule of the war of 175t. Although it was repudiated by continental jurists and by some American writers, it was during the civil war in America adopted and somewhat extended by American prize courts at a time when it bore severely on certain interests and adventures of English shippers and ship owners.

"Applied to the carriage of contraband and to the breach of blockade, it became the settled practice of American prize courts during the four years' conflict between the north and south. The extension of this doctrine, however, has not been accepted by continental publicists, and in the case of the cargo of the Springbok particularly there has been sharp dissent by authoritative English and American writers. In this case the Supreme Court held that 'where goods destined for a belligerent port are being conveyed between two neutral ports by a neutral ship, it, though liable to seizure in order to confiscate the goods, is not liable to condemnation as prize,' and that 'where the cargo was originally shipped with intent to violate the blockade, to be transshipped at a neutral port, the liability to condemnation, if captured during any part of that voyage, attached to the cargo from the time of sailing.

"The law officers of the crown advised the British goviernment would be justified in demanding the immediate restitution of the ship and cargo without submitting to adjudication by an American prize court. But while this was the law so given, the Br

"Mr. Evarts' argument before the mixed commission, however, went to show that the condemnation, while, perhaps, sustain-able under the British/system, as defined Sir William Scott, was in antagonism t merely to the doctrines set forth in Sir lliam Scott's time by the United States, ut to those modern restrictions of block de by which alone the rights of neutra commerce can be sustained against a bellig-erent having the mastery of the seas. It is not strange that the British commis-sioner should have declined to set aside a ruling so consistent with the older British precedents and so favorable to belligerent maritime assendency. The ruling of a majority of the Supreme Court and the mixed claims commission, says Dr. Fran-cis Wharton, 'cannot be accepted withou discarding those rules as to neutral right or which the United States made

for which the United States made war in 1812, and which, except in the Springbok and cognate cases, the executive department of the United States government, when stating the law, has since then consistently vindicated.

"The maritime prize commission, nominated by the Institute of International Law at the session at Wiesbaden, condemned the doctrine laid down and applied by a majority of the Supreme Court in the case of the cargo of the Springbok as a serious inroad upon the rights of neutral nations and as inconsistent with the spirit of important amendments of the rules of maritime warfare, of which the United States had been the zealous promoter.

"The present indications are that it is a decetive serious in the spirit of the cargo of the spring the United States had been the zealous promoter.

had been the zealous promoter.

"The present indications are that it is a doctrine which has come back to plague us and is another instance of the danger of departure from sound principles under emergent occasion."

VACANT BRIGADIER GENERALSHIPS Places to Be Filled on the Reassemb ling of Congress.

Gen. Gilbert S. Carpenter, who was re ently confirmed as brigadier general in the egular army, has been placed on the retired list on his own application, after thir ty years' active service. His last service was in command of the 18th Infantry in the Philippines. He has been detached from the Philippines. He has been detached from further service in the field and ordered home. His retirement leaves two vacancies in the list of brigadier generals, and results in promotions in every grade of the line, including the promotion of Lieut. Col. J. M. J. Sanno of the 4th Infantry, to be colonel of the 18th Infantry.

The two vacancies in the list of brigadier generals will be filled on the reassembling of Congress by the promotion and retire-

generals will be filled on the reassembling of Congress by the promotion and retirement of several officers who have distinguished themselves in action in the recent war. It is proposed that Gens. MacArthur, Wilson, Lee, Wheeler, Bates, Young, Ludlow and Wheaton, all of whom hold commissions in the volunteer army, are to be made breadier generals in the regular establishment, and that all but two of the number will be immediately retired regular establishment, and that all but two of the number will be immediately retired. Gen. MacArthur will undoubtedly be retained in active service, but there is less certainty as to the identity of the other general officer to be retained. The death of Gen. Lawton left a vacancy in the list of major generals of volunteers, which will be filled by the promotion of either Gen. Bates, Gen. Young or Gen. Wheaton, all of whom are on duty in the Philippines. This appointment will be made early next week.

Movements of Warships.

Admiral Schley's flagship Chicago has arrived at Buenos Ayres and will remain there until further orders. The Vixen has arrived at Norfolk.

The Marcellus has been ordered out of

The erviser Hartford will sail from San Francisco about January 10 for Valpa-The Dixie will sail Thursday for Norfolk. The Dorothea is not to be placed in com-nission for the time being.

TRAILED BY SLEUTHS SEIZURE OF THE FLOUR NAVAL OBSERVATORY

Recommendations of Change Made by Board of Visitors.

TO TAKE IT FROM NAVAL CONTROL MUCH WORK TO BE DONE THE FIRST LAFAYETTE

Suggested.

gress embodying the legislation propothe board of visitors to the United States naval observatory for 1899, and approved by the Secretary of the Navy, in regard to the organization and management of the day recess was taken. The report, in brief, states that there has not been adequate that it should be under the immediate suplan of its work should be laid out by a board capable of fully appreciating the best uses that may be made of such an insti-

tution.
The Naval Observatory. The board of visitors making this report onsisted of Senator Wm. E. Chandler, A. G. Dayton, Edward C. Pickering, George C. Comstock and George E. Hale. The re-

"The naval observatory, which was originally established as a scientific bureau, auxiliary to the needs of the naval service. inally established as a scientific bureau, auxiliary to the needs of the naval service, has become, through half a century of large sums of money, as authorized by law, an astronomical observatory of the first rank in respect of buildings, instruments and equipment. But by far the larger and more valuable part of its equipment has little or no reference to any direct requirement of the naval service, and its existence can be justified only on the ground that Congress has intended to establish and maintain a national astronomical observatory. Under these changed circumstances its continued connection with the Navy Department has seemed to many of those whose views have been submitted to the board of visitors illogical and undesirable. In view, however, of the absence of a national university, a department or bureau of the government especially suited to the conduct of such scientific work, and in view of the diversity of opinion among American astronomers upon the question to which existing department the observatory could be wisely transferred, we believe it to be inexpedient for us at the present time to further consider the subject of such transfer.

The Astronomical Staff.

The Astronomical Staff.

"If the naval observatory as a shore station, charged with the performance of certain functions assumed to have a relation to the navy, is to continue under the command of a line officer, we recommend that the astronomical staff of the naval observatory shall consist of an astronomical director, four astronomers, three assistant astronomers and such computers and other minor officers as may be provided by law. The astronomical directors and astrono-mers, whether professors of mathematics or taken from civil life, and the assistant astronomers should be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and con-sent of the Senate, to hold their offices un-til their successors are appointed. "The Nautical Almanac office, which was

formerly a distinct bureau, is now administered by departmental regulations as a part of the naval observatory, and it appears from the evidence submitted to the board of visitors that the successful administration of the observatory is much impeded by reason of imposing upon its astronomical

Criticism of Administration.

"A criticism frequently and forcibly urged against the administration of the naval observatory, not limited to the present time but covering almost the entire period of its existence, is that its astronomical work has not been prosecuted with that vigor and continuity of purpose which should be shown in a national observatory. The pos sibility of conducting well-planned re-searches with unvarying regularity over long series of years should constitute the long series of years should be considered advantage of a national observatory, an advantage which is not fully realized in the history of the naval observatory, where each principal astronomer seems to have the history of the naval observatory, where each principal astronomer seems to have been left to choose his own line of work and to alter it from time to time or abandon it. This is perhaps inevitable in a system which places at the head of an observatory an officer who is not a technical expert in astronomical work; and therefore in order to secure continuity in the prosecution of work well chosen and co-ordinated with that of other observatories, and also to obtain for the observatory and the department ain for the observatory and the departmen advice and criticism which shall be both disinterested and responsible, we rec mend the establishment of a permanen poard of visitors, substantially as follows:

"There shall be appointed by the Presilent from persons not officers of the United States a board of nine visitors to the naval observatory, six to be astronomers of high professional standing and three to be emient citizens of the United States. pointments to this board shall be made for pointments to this board shall be made for periods of three years, but provision shall be made by initial appointments for shorter terms, so that two astronomers and one member of the board not an astronomer shall retire in each year. Members of this board shall serve without compensation, but the Secretary of the Navy shall pay the actual expenses necessarily incurred by members of the board in the discharge of such duties as are assigned them by the Secretary of the Navy or are otherby the Secretary of the Navy or are other-wise imposed upon them. The board of visitors shall make an annual visitation o the naval observatory at a date to be ictermined by the Secretary of the Navy, and may make such other visitations not exceeding two in number annually by the full board, or by a duly appointed com-mittee as may be deemed needful or ex-

INSTITUTION'S IMPORTANCE

No bill has yet been introduced in Connaval observatory. This report was laid before Congress a few days before the holidirection to the work of the observatory, pervision of an astronomer, and that the

port states:

Board of Visitors to Be Permanent.

medient by a majority of the board.

"The board of visitors shall report to the "The board of visitors shall report to the Secretary of the Navy at least once in each year the result of its examinations of the naval observatory as respects the condition of buildings, instruments and apparatus, and the efficiency with which its scientific work is prosecuted. The board of visitors shall prepare and submit to the Secretary of the Navy regulations prescribing the scope of the astronomical and other researches of the naval observatory and the duties of its staff with reference thereto. When appointments or details are to be made to the office of astronomical director, director of the Nautical Almanac, astronomer, or assistant astronomer in the naval mer, or assistant astronomer in the naval observatory, the board of visitors may recommend to the Secretary of the Navy suitable persons to fill such offices, but such recommendations shall be determined only by a majority vote of the members present a regularly called meeting of the board and in the city of Washington." Bill to Be Prepared.

TWO CENTS.

bill to be placed before Congress very early after it reassembles.

The report further shows that the naval observatory is first in point of income observatory is first in point of income among the observatories of the world, the income of several of the largest institutions of this kind of the world being: Naval observatory, \$85,000; Paris, \$53,000; Greenwich, \$49,000; Harvard, \$46,000; Pulkowa, \$46,000; Cape of Good Hope, \$33,000.

The Character of Administration Congress Will Get Down to Business When It Reassembles.

> New Members Will Press for a River and Harbor Bill-Public

When Congress reassembles a week from today the two houses will settle down to a long season of business, which will probably extend far into the summer. There is a great deal of work to be done of a

public character, which will or should ab-

sorb the attention of congressmen, while,

of course, each representative and senator has legislation personal to his own interests to look after. There are a large number of new mem bers of the House who desire to make a record for themselves in their first session and to make a strike for their constituents. To this class the river and harbor bill, the private pension bills, the public building bills and the miscellaneous appropriation

measures afford opportunities of the kind desired.
Rivers and Harbors.

There is a question, however, whether a fiver and harbor bill will be framed at this session. Chairman Burton of the river and harbor committee, has stated as his opin-

In this connection it is stated that, aside In this connection it is stated that, aside from the fact that the government now has a large number of unfinished contracts on hand, more than the supervising architect's office can well handle, the government is called upon to make increased appropriations for buildings heretofore authorized. This necessity arises from the increase in the price of structural iron and building material. Some buildings bester.

building material. Some buildings hereto-fore authorized by Congress cannot be con-structed now because the limit of cost fixed by the bill will not cover the case. WAS NEVER CONTEMPLATED.

Germany Had No Idea of Acquiring Danish West Indies. In official German quarters here it is stated that Germany has never contemplated the acquisition of the Danish West Indian Islands, and that consequently there has been no occasion for advices from the German embassy here to the home government against the acquisition on the ground as an unfriendly act. The officials here are a loss to account for the story, as there e been no negotiations for such an ac-

Assignment of Army Officers.

The following assignments to regiments of officers recently promoted are announced: First Lieut. John F. B. Mitchell, jr., to the 12th United States Infantry, Com-

pany D.

First Lieut. James P. Drouillard, to the 1st United States Infentry, Company E. First Lieut. Martin F. Crimmins, to the

First Lieut. Martin F. Crimmins, to the 6th United States Infantry.
First Lieut. Marion M. Weeks, to the 11th United States Infantry, Company C.
First Lieut. James M. Love, jr., to the 5th United States Infantry.
First Lieut. Paul H. McCook, to the 2d United States Infantry, Company H.
First Lieut. Frederick W. Coleman, jr., to the 8th United States Infantry, Company Company C.

Army Orders.

Capt. James E. Brett, 24th Infantry, has been placed on the retired list on account of disability incident to the service. Maj. Harry L. Rogers, paymaster, U. S.

., has been ordered to pay to December 1

the troops at Fort Myer, Va., and Fort Mc-Henry, North Point, and Fort Armistead, Md.
Troops at Washington barracks, D. C.;
Fort Washington, Md.; Fort Hunt and Fort
Caswell, Va., and Fort Caswell, N. C., will
be paid to December 1 by Maj. Hugh R.
Belknap, paymaster, U. S. A.

Naval Orders.

Commander C. P. Perkins has been assigned to duty at the Washington navy Chief Carpenter J. B. Fletcher, order November 29 revoked, and to await orders.

Foreman of the Gunshop. The Secretary of the Navy has appointed C. G. Robinson foreman of the gunshop at the Washington navy yard, at \$7 a day. This appointment is made in accordance

with a recommendation of the naval board,

which conducted a competitive exami of candidates for the vacancy. Col. Volkmar's New Duties. Col. William J. Volkmar, assistant adjutant general, has been relieved from duty

in the department of Colorado and ordered

to temporary duty at New York in the de-partment of the east, on the completion of which he will proceed to Havana, Cuba, for assignment to duty as adjutant general of the division of Cuba.

Set Mail on Fire. Chief Post Office Inspector Cochran re ceived information this morning from Postmaster Minnick of York, Pa., that a man last night put papers in a number of street letter boxes and set them on fire, destroy ing the mail. Luckily, the miscreant was discovered and arrested. Several witnesses came forward and identified the man. The maximum penalty for destroying the United States mails in the letter boxes is \$500 fine and three years' imprisonment.

Major Pope Ordered to Charleston Major James W. Pope, quartermaster, now in this city, has been ordered to take The reforms indicated in the above recommendations will doubtless be embodied in a station at Charleston, S. C., for special duty pertaining to the quartermaster's department.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

A LIBERAL EDUCATION.

Whether or not you wish

to buy anything the adver-

tising columns of The Star amply repay the most care-

ful perusal.

Talks on the Government of Our New Possessions.

Plns for Betterment of Prison

THE WEBSTER STATUE

Senator McComas of Maryland talked with the President today about Puerto Rico, Hawaii and other new possessions. The senator is a member of the Senate committee on Pacific islands and Puerto Rico, and is taking a deep interest in the question of government for the new possessions. He has his own ideas as to what should be done, but desires to secure the ideas of others that he may see the matters from all points of view

What Senator Stewart Thinks.

President's visitors. He is also interested in territorial questions, and will have considerable to say when the Senate takes the subject up for consideration. Talking of what should be done the senator said: "The less we depart from the old territorial system in governing our new possessions, the less innovation we make in that system, the better we will be able to manage what we have acquired. That system has proven satisfactory for years and in handling all the new territory we have secured. It ought to be good enough for the latest acquisitions.

quisitions.

"My policy is to take all land we can get, and treat the people who come with it as our children. We cannot afford to treat some of them as step-children. When we begin that we may have discord in the family circle. I believe in expansion, as already stated, and believe that it was necessary to the good of the country. A country which doesn't grow is like a tree which has attained its full growth, begins to decay." No Further Military Increase.

Senator Cockrell of Missouri, who is the eading democratic member on the Senate ommittee on military affairs, called to pay his respects. Senator Cockrell intends to fight the republican plan of permanently ncreasing the regular army to 65,000 men.

"There is no necessity for legislation on the subject at this session," said he. "The army establishment is provided for until July, 1901. This gives us a year and a half in which to consider the matter and to determine what is best to be done. I am in favor of increasing the artillery arm of the service, but I do not think there is now, or will be in the near future, any occasion for a permanent increase in the number of infantry or cavalry regiments above that which has been provided by law for a number of years. I think 25,000 men, with some additions to the artillery to take care of sea coast fortifications, will be all the army this country will need after the present conditions in the Philippines have been overcome." army establishment is provided for until

The Webster Monument Unveiling. Senator Chandler saw the President and invited him to attend the exercises incident to the unveiling of the monument to Daniel Webster in the Lafayette Opera House on January 18. The President accepted the

invitation and will be present at the ex-

The First Lafayette Bollar. President McKinley was presented today with the first silver dollar struck off in aid of the monument to be erected in Paris to Gen. Lafayette. This is known as the La that it would be regarded in this country fayette dollar, and the entire issue of 50, 000, authorized by Congress, has been coin ed and turned over to the association which has charge of the erection of the monu ment. Each dollar is to be sold for \$2, realizing \$100,000 to add to the sum raised by the school children of the United States to build the monument.

President McKinley signified to Mr. Geo.

E. Roberts, who presented the coin, his in-tention of presenting the dollar given him to President Faure of France. He will send the dollar to President Faure some time during the coming year, and it will be ac-companied by the best wishes of the coun-try which so fondly cherishes the memory of Lafayette.

Mr. Roberts, who is director of the mint.

Mr. Roberts, who is director of the mint.

Mr. Roberts, who is director of the mint, preserved the first dollar minted, and had it placed in an appropriate case. On one side of the coin are heads of Washington and Lafayette. On the other is a reproduction of the monument, which it is proposed to erect. Across the face of the representation of the monument is this inscription: "Erected in the name of the school children of the United States. Paris, 1990."

To Better the Prisons in Cuba. Ex-Representative S. J. Barrows of Massachusetts, the representative of this countalked with the President about the condition of prisons in Cuba. According to Charlton Levis of the New York Prison Association, who has made a report to Secretary Root, the majority of prisons in Cuba are in terrible condition. Mr. Lewis has asked the administration to make a change. President McKiniey has become much in-terested in the subject, and through Sec-retary Root will give orders that a betterretary Root will give orders that a better-ment of prison conditions shall be under-taken at once. It is said that Gen. Wood will enter actively into the reforms to be inaugurated. It is believed that he would have taken the matter up without direc-tion so soon as he had learned the condition of the places of incarceration.

The Last Supervisor. Gov. Merriam, the director of the census, handed to the President today the name of the last of the 300 census supervisors. The task of selecting these officials has been a herculean one, and the friends of Director Merriam are congratulating him on the manner in which he has handled the task. The three hundredth man agreed upon to-day was Geo. M. French of Arkansas, and no more appointments of this kind will be made. In the south the selection of super-visors was exceedingly difficult. The dem-ocratic senators and the republican leaders in the south frequently disagreed as to appointments. Gov. Merriam's task was to smooth over differences and strife. This he did in all cases.

For Monday's Reception. Calvin Farnsworth, commander of the

District G. A. R., visited the White House this morning to arrange for the reception of the local veterans on Monday, when the New Year reception of the President is nounce the program later.
Other visitors to the White House dur-Other visitors to the White House dur-ing the day were Senators Elkins, Tillman and Carter, Representative Sulloway and H. Clay Evans, commissioner of pensions.

Personal Mention. Mr. Karl Herbert Fenning of the Wash-

ington High School class of '99, now a student at Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., is spending the holidays at his home

this city.

Bradley T. McCormick, who is studying electrical engineering at Cornell, is at home for the holidays.

Conditions in Cuba

Senator Stewart was also one of the